Meteor-Heraut

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Chièvres

Schinnen - Brussels

April 8, 2005

Quick Read

In General

Booking fees increase SATO Travel raised their charge for airline bookings April 1 to \$49 with a maximum of \$80 for leisure family travel. Info: dsanders@satotravel.com.

Moving claims to improve

Full replacement value for lost or damaged items is among several changes taking effect in October as part of a new program called "Families First" that aims to improve the moving process for military families.

Belgium

Protest planned

Two groups plan a demonstration April 16 at the SHAPE compound. Personnel are requested to avoid the area if possible. Contact the International Police or Military Police desks for access information and watch for community bulletins.

Care providers sought

NATO Support Activity in Brussels seeks Respite Care Providers for Exceptional Family Member Program parents in need of relief; and also Emergency Placement Care Providers for temporary shelter of adult and adolescent victims of domestic violence. Contact ACS, Soldier and Family Readiness program, at DSN 368-9693 or 02 717 9693.

Fest seeks exhibitors

The SHAPE "Fun For All" Fest is Aug. 27, when community activities showcase programs and offer a fun afternoon. Organizers want more National Military Representatives as well as clubs and associations to participate. Info: Alfred Francisco, DSN 423-8007; or Sgt. Maj Antonia Anastasopoulou, DSN 423-4269.

Masters program offered

Oklahoma University offers a dual Master's Degree in International Relations and Human Relations. Contact SHAPE Education Center, DSN 423-3654 or visit online, www.goOU.ou.edu.

Chièvres PX has new hours New hours for the PX on Chièvres Air Base start April 14: Monday, closed; Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Netherlands and Germany

Grad studies offered

University of Phoenix now visits the Trebeek and Geilenkirchen communities: Trebeek Education Center, April 13 and May 13; and Geilenkirchen Education Center, April 14 and May 12, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. or by appointment. University of Phoenix can help students earn an MBA or Master of Arts in Education. Info: Tina Cusker, UOP Representative, DSN 423-

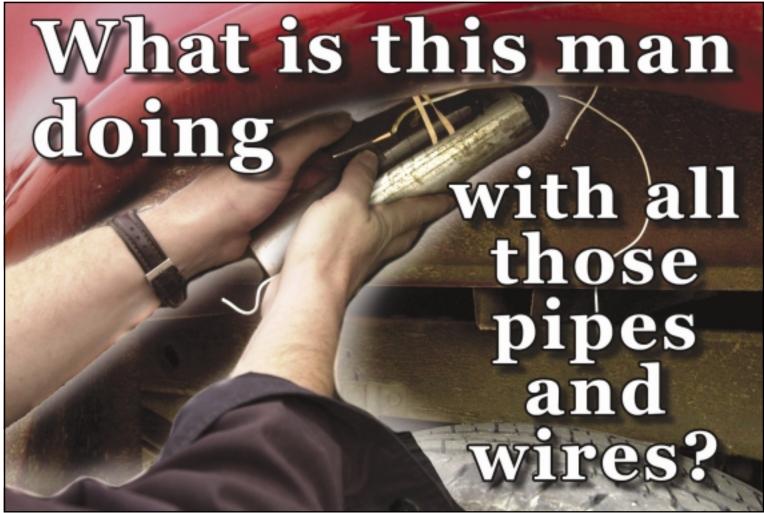


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: Rick Haveriner

A terrorist could use just about anyone's private vehicle to smuggle an explosive device into a U.S. military installation without the vehicle owner knowing about it. Security specialists call this technique "delivery by proxy." It's good force protection practice to regularly inspect your vehicle for any devices that do not look like they belong. Do not attempt to remove any suspicious device yourself, but notify military police immediately, stay away and warn others to keep well clear of the vehicle.

Terrorists prey on complacency

By Rik Bertrand

There is no room for complacency when it comes to Force Protection and Security of our military installations. It's commonplace to get out of bed every day, go to work, and return home in the evening. When you don't think twice about something that needs attention, it's complacency, and it's dangerous - not just for you and your family, but for everyone around you. In this day and age, terrorism is sitting around the corner waiting for an opportunity to strike. It's looking for any person or location that hasn't taken the time or discipline to follow security priorities.

The protection and security of all U.S and

host nation personnel working and living in the 80th Area Support Group footprint is the number one priority of the command. The command depends on the Force Protection Office, the Provost Marshal and the Contract Security forces to ensure that the physical security of our installation is maintained and conditions are safe for all. Although numerous, these assets cannot guarantee security without your help. To ensure a safe environment for all, everyone must participate and be involved in force protection. Do not become complacent in your everyday lives; become security oriented, both for your family and your extended military "family."

Terrorists use many tactics against their enemies. Some can be very simple and others complex. No matter what tactic terrorists use,

they always survey their target first to ensure they can succeed in their mission. The terrorist likes an easy target, or what we call a soft target. If it's easy for the terrorist to reach and simple to destroy, then they will strike. The point is we need to make ourselves a hard target. We need to make terrorists look the other way, to search for a target elsewhere. We need to show terrorists that we are always vigilant, always watching, and we need to let them know we never let our guard down.

We all need to take the time to look around, know our neighbors, and know what and who is suspicious in our community. We need to stay alert, keep our eyes open, and focus on the security and safety of community. Report any and all suspicious items,

See TERRORISTS Page 3.

Recommendations sent to Heidelberg

By Ned Cronin

Benelux region met at SHAPE, Brussels, and Schinnen in March to determine what Army Family Action Plan issues needed to be addressed to improve military life. AFAP suggestion boxes were located throughout the three installation areas and many excellent suggestions were provided by members of our military communities. Following review and discussion by local AFAP delegates, top issues were forwarded for review by the 80th Area Support Group AFAP Steering Committee which met March 24 to select ten issues to be further forwarded for consideration by the USAREUR AFAP Conference in May:

1. Lack of Hair-Dressing Services for African-Americans - Hairdressing facilities in OCONUS do not provide quality services for

African-Americans. Specialized sults. Some physically fit soldiers into consideration a passing PT Adult and teen representatives training, expertise, and products are separated from the Army be- Score. Eliminate current program

ticular type of hair. Recommendations made: Establish a permanent AAFES contracted position for an African-American hair care specialist at all OCONUS military installations. This would be a position separate from the Beauty Salon contract. Ensure products are available in the salon and complete services are provided. AAFES Beauty Shops are contracted services, so the contractor should be required to hire and provide ongoing training for employees qualified to care for African-American hair.

2. AR 600-9, Section III, Computation of Body Fat is Unfair - The Army does not take into consideration the different body types when computing the Tape Test re-

Chris Staker leads an Army Family Action Plan meeting at the SHAPE Community Club March 23 while Carol Ostrander records the group's input.

Body Fat Test. Recommendations made: Revise present regulation to accommodate different body types. Create a waiver that commanders can utilize which takes

of military communities in the are required to maintain this par- cause they are unable to pass the in favor of alternative methods of

evaluating fitness.

3. Lack of Civilian Dental Care - While overseas, DoD civilians and DoDDs teachers can only use the dental clinic on a same day, space-available basis. Recommendations made: Allow civilians to book appointments one week in advance to take advantage of any open appointments or cancellations. Allocate one civilian appointment slot each day. Create a civilian waiting list. Individuals can be called immediately when there is a cancellation. Contract additional services for civilians

4. A Guaranteed Education Tuition (G.E.T.) Program - Service members do not have the option to purchase

with a local dentist.

See AFAP Page 3.

ANN YIE STI

Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski 80th ASG Commander

It appears that Spring has arrived in the Benelux. As the days get warmer and longer, and we enjoy the

Nowowiejski Notes

flowers of The Netherlands, our minds naturally turn to the summer ahead. For many of us, those months will be ones of change, as we either undergo permanent changes of station ourselves, or have friends and neighbors in our American communities who do. With that in mind, I would like to discuss sponsorship, inprocessing and volunteer recognition.

Bell Sends #17-05 outlines in succinct form changes to USAREUR regulations on Sponsorship that will be released this month. It also reminds of responsibilities for sponsorship which are ultimately command responsibility, because sponsorship is vital to our communities. Sponsors ease the transition of PCS and effectively welcome to a community. Many of you remember sponsors in previous assignments who have had a vital impact on your lives. Leaders, please choose sponsors for those who are inbound to our communities this summer carefully. They must be trained, and they must care. A good sponsor has a life changing impact that colors the perception of the whole tour of duty.

We serve in mixed and complex American communities across the Benelux. These communities are made of multiple units and activities, from all the several joint services. They are not just Army communities, they are joint, Ameri-

can communities. As such, inprocessing is a similarly complex and varied task. Since good inprocessing is vital to safety and well being, we have been looking toward a more stable, regular, and common standard of inprocessing. What I ask is for support to inprocessing initiatives this summer, as we make sure that, whatever your service or unit, all new personnel and families are welcomed to the community and given the tools they need to drive safely, live safely and securely, and thrive in the host nation community where you reside. We want your stay in the Benelux to begin with a common standard of inprocessing that equips you for success in your tour of duty.

Finally, a concluding note on a vital community activity. This is the season of the year for volunteer recognition. I fully recognize that our well-being depends on volunteers who do every day the many tasks that make where we live and work safe and happy places to be. When your local volunteer recognition ceremony takes place, please make sure that every volunteer you know is part of the recognition, and I encourage you to participate yourself. Volunteer recognition is for those who have volunteered in the past, for sure, but it is also a means to encourage new people to volunteer. We want to make sure that all who have contributed are recognized.

Good sponsorship makes great units

28 March 2005 Bell Sends #17-05 Sponsorship

1. We are an Army of People. Every Soldier, family member, and civilian employee deserves to be brought into a new unit with effective personal contact. Newly assigned personnel and their families develop their first-and perhaps most critical-impression of the unit and installation based on how well they are received. These impressions will significantly affect a new arrival's attitude toward his or her assignment, which in turn affects unit cohesion, retention, morale, and discipline. For this reason, sponsorship is a vital command responsibility. We need commanders and leaders at all levels to effectively lead and manage their sponsorship program, select the right people to be sponsors, and ensure these individuals are trained and given the resources they need to succeed.

2. To revitalize and ensure the success of our sponsorship program, Army in Europe

Regulation 600-8-8, Military and Civilian Sponsorship; and USAREUR Pamphlet 600-8-8, How To Be a Good Sponsor, are being revised and will be published in mid- to late April. It is my intent that these publications will—

* Require units to have written sponsorship management plans and to update their plans each year. * Prescribe policy on sponsorship leader training.

* Require civilian employees to receive sponsorship training before they perform duties as sponsors.

Gen. B. B. Bell
their receive sponsorship training before
and pre-

* Incorporate guidance on using DA Form

4856 to counsel sponsors on their duties and responsibilities.

* Update S-Gate and Army Community Service sponsorship

training.
*Empower commanders
to execute their unit
sponsorship program
with precision.

3. Sponsors must be good listeners, knowledgeable about their community, able to anticipate the needs of the individuals they sponsor, and willing to provide selfless support. Leaders must ensure that sponsors clearly understand

their responsibilities by counseling them and providing constructive feedback.

4. Although sponsors are responsible for

carrying out sponsorship duties, sponsorship must be a commander's program. When properly executed, an effective sponsorship program successfully integrates newly arrived Soldiers, civilians, and their families into the unit.

5. In our fast-paced environment, sponsorship has to be a top priority. I want commanders to review the guidance on sponsorship in Army in Europe Command Policy Letter 13, and reenergize their unit sponsorship programs. Every effort must be made to ensure that all new arrivals are properly received and integrated so that we can continue to execute with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere.



B. B. BELL General, US Army Commanding

Tax filing deadline extended overseas

By J.D. Hardesty

While stateside workers are pressing against income tax deadlines, Department of Defense Dependent Schools employees, service members, contractors and other American civilian employees have an automatic two-month extension to file their tax returns.

The deadline for filing tax returns for those government workers overseas is June 15, and only applies for those stationed overseas prior to the April 15 deadline.

Many have already filed and received their returns. If an extension is needed after the June 15 deadline and the person owes more than what was withheld in payroll deductions, interest is accrued from June 15.

U.S. government workers employed overseas are taking advantage of filing their returns "directly to the Internal Revenue Service on-line," said Capt. Matthew Kopetski, officer-in-charge of client services for the Northern Law Center, citing more people are computer savvy. "Initially, people seeking tax assistance have been slow, but it was real busy in March."

According to Marique de Quay-Jones, a electronic tax filing clerk, the center has already helped about 65 percent of the estimated 1,000 people they assist with tax returns

Kopetski offered tips to reduce the stressful process for people still needing to file more complex returns.

"Tips to remember are keeping clear "income stream" records and "rental dates and depreciation" for rental property. Other tips include reporting student loan repayments as taxable income and reporting foreign-born spouses earned income," he said. "And, for some with entrepreneurial ventures, they need to have individual taxpayer identification numbers. Rental property or the sale of real estate is another key issue," he said noting that it is absolutely essential to document real property's purchase price plus invested maintenance costs and sales price are all needed to determine capital gains taxes. Similarly, the same holds true for the sale of stocks and bonds as investors need to keep track of their buy/sell prices as well as any dividend payments.

Nominations accepted for DoDDS 'Teacher of the Year'

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) has been invited to participate in the National Teacher of the Year Program sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers and Scholastic, Inc. The mission of the National Teacher of the Year Program is to recognize and honor contributions of the American classroom teacher and to focus attention on excellence in teaching.

Each district may select one teacher to be considered for the DoDEA Teacher of the Year. A panel will con-

vene at DoDEA HQ in early October to select, from district nominees, the DoDEA Teacher of the Year. The Teacher of the Year will represent the "state" of DoDEA in the national competition.

A peer, administrator, parent, or student may nominate a teacher by writing a letter to the teacher's principal explaining why that teacher should be Teacher of the Year. This letter of nomination will become a part of the teacher's application package. Self-nomination is not an option.

If nominated, teachers will be encouraged to complete the application process. The completed application must be submitted to the district superintendent through the principal on or before May 9. Applications and nomination forms are available from every principal.

For more information contact local school principals or Carol Drechsel, DoDEA HQ Program Coordinator, Teacher of the Year Program, Stateside telephone 703 588-3140 or Melanie LeVault, 703 588-3139.

ACS sponsors sponsorship

Army Community Service on SHAPE offers a briefing called "How to be a good sponsor" every first Wednesday of the month, 10-11 a.m., at ACS, Building 318, SHAPE. However, the next time the class will meet is April 27. The briefing helps the future sponsor with as much information as possible. Sponsors also share experiences and ideas about helping a newcomer. For more information, call Veronique Hensgens, Relocation Assistance Program Manager, DSN 423-4332, or 065 44-4332; Fax DSN 423 4896, or 065 44-4896.

Army Community Service in Schinnen schedules its sponsorship classes the fourth Wednesday every month at 2 p.m. This month's date is April 27. Sponsorship training is also available to units upon request. For more information call Calvin Farlow, Relocation Assistance Program Manager, at DSN 360-7512 or 31 46 443-7512.

The relocation program at NATO Support Activity Army Community Service offers a wide range of support services to individuals who have been assigned to sponsor incoming personnel and their families and to help them adjust to life in Brussels. Sponsorship training is available for groups or individuals upon request. For more information contact NSA ACS Relocation Readiness Program Manager, Cathy Blumenthal, room 302, top floor, Building 4 at NSA, phone DSN 368-9729, or Email cathy.blumenthal@benelux.army.mil.

The Meteor-Heraut April 8, 2005

Local communities celebrate Month of the Military Child

April in Month of the Military Child and American communities in the Benelux nations have a variety of events programmed for youth and parents in support of the observance.

NATO Support Activity in Brussels: The Brussels ACS offers "Family Matters," a four-day educational forum with a wide selection of parenting classes and workshops. The focus is "Health and Wellness of Our Children," presented by a wide range of community specialists and professionals. Classes are at NSA. "Family Matters" also sponsors car seat safety checks, childhood identification kits/fingerprinting and Infant/Child CPR. Attend a class and you are eligible to enter a drawing to win a TMA Spa Gift Certificate and a Brussels MWR Trip to Paris, Amsterdam, Ghent and Brugge, or a fishing trip in the North Sea – Ostend. The winner chooses the trip. The schedule is April 28, 9a.m.-8p.m.; April 29, 10a.m.-2p.m.; April 30, 9a.m.-5p.m.; May 1, 9a.m.-5 p.m. Info or registration: Elsa Rodriguez-Roth or Carol Richardson, 02 717 9783.

The SHAPE and Chièvres military communities: Offer a morning seminar of topics of interest to youth. The Health and Wellness Day is April 21 in the SHAPE Middle and High Schools. The seminar combines topics from Month of the Military Child, Child Abuse Prevention Month, and Sexual As-



formation call Keith Nielsen at DSN 423-5324.

254th Base Support Bn. in Schinnen: April 7 - Appreciating Yourself, 4-5 p.m., at School Age Services. April 8 - How to Tell If a Child is Being Abused (video and discussion,) 9:30-10:30 a.m., at ACS. April 10 - Family Movie Day, "Racing Stripes," 4 p.m., at JFC Theater. Coupon or key phrase, "Just say no," required for entry. April 11 - Good Touch, Bad Touch, 9-9:30 a.m., at GKCDC, 2-2:30 p.m., at AFNorth International Elementary School. Home Alone Training, 4-5 p.m., at Youth Services. April 13 - Good Touch, Bad Touch, Info: DSN 360-7500 or DSN 360-7453.

Set the Wayback

Machine for 1505

Corinne Benoît and Dany Monville re-

hearse a flirtatious medieval dance

March 6 that they will perform April 15-16 in Chièvres, as the city turns

the sundial back to the year 1505 for

"Medianoche," a Spanish word mean-

ing in the middle of the night. Tours

depart Chièvres city hall April 15-16 at

either 8 or 9 p.m. to visit sites in town

where theater scenes, dances, music,

and period combat are staged. A mar-

ket offers medieval meals, and arts

and crafts on the main square. About

200 players participate. Reservations

are mandatory at 068 269989 (Cultural

Center Ath) or 068 658070 (Chièvres library) where tickets can also be pur-

chased. For information or help with

reservations call 80th ASG public af-

fairs office at DSN 361-5419.

12:30-1 p.m., at AFNorth International Elementary School. April 15 - Good Touch, Bad Touch, 12:30-1 p.m., at AFNorth International Elementary School. April 16 -Ident-a-kid and games, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Schinnen PX. April 18 - Looking Out for You (video and discussion,) 4-5 p.m., at Youth Services. April 19- Good Touch, Bad Touch, 9:30-10 a.m. or 10:15-10:45 a.m., at CDC. April 26 - Good Touch, Bad Touch, 9:30-10 a.m. or 10-10:30 a.m. at GK School.

TERRORISTS from Page 1

vehicles or persons you see in the area to the military police immediately. Keep pencil and paper handy to write down as much information as you can, to include description of incident, persons and items, time and location, and vehicle description and license plate numbers.

Here are some ideas for keeping our community safe. Vehicle Safety - Check your vehicle daily for suspicious items or packages that may have been placed on the exterior or in the interior. Terrorists sometimes use the "delivery by proxy" method to get explosives inside an installation. Delivery by proxy is basically the transportation of a device unknowingly by an innocent person. The terrorist will place a device on your vehicle while you have it parked outside your residence, you will then drive your vehicle onto the installation and park it, where the terrorist will remotely detonate the device. By walking around your vehicle and checking it daily, a terrorist may see this and determine you are vigilant in searching your vehicle and

Unattended items - Be aware of your surroundings and

report the location of all unattended items such as luggage, gym bags, packages, boxes, etc., located around buildings and facilities. It is extremely important that you not attempt to inspect the unattended items. Move as far away from unattended items as possible and leave inspections to trained personnel. Deadly bombs can be concealed in innocuous and relatively small packages or containers. These items may not appear to be threatening, but will be unattended and look out of place. Also, when traveling or attending public events, be alert to items left unattended. Immediately report any unattended items to the appropriate authorities.

At All Times

sault Prevention Month. The intent is to pro-

vide information to the entire student body

of the middle and high schools on subject

matter not ordinarily covered in regularly-of-

fered classes. Some of the topics include: Ask

the Doctor; Equal Opportunities for Teens;

Bullying, What is it; You are what you Eat;

Positive body Image; Preventing Sports In-

juries; Hazards of Smoking; Emotional

wellness; HIV in Belgium; Real Life Alcohol

Knowledge; and Life Skills, Budgeting. Guest

instructors are invited from the community

and will have three separate classes. For in-

Vary eating establishments when dining on economy. Alternate shopping locations on the economy.

Do not establish any patterns.

Avoid crowded areas, and demonstrations.

Be especially alert exiting bars, restaurants, etc.

Know how to use the local phone system and carry "telephone change."

Know emergency phone numbers for police, ambulance and hospital.

Know location of the U.S. Embassy and other safe locations where you can find refuge or assistance.

Living with the Threat - We live with many dangers in our daily lives, ranging from everyday household accidents to natural disasters. We do so without relentless fear. Terrorism is a fact of contemporary life, but we do not have to live with a greater fear of terrorism than other dangers. It is important to be aware of the threat and take steps to protect ourselves, but it is also important to keep the threat in perspective.

The bottom line: Terrorists prey on complacency and inattention. Security awareness is the key. Stay alert and

Some extracts taken from Personal Protection Measures Against the Terrorist Threat, published in 2004 by Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)

Bertrand is Anti Terrorism Officer, 80th ASG, Chièvres Air Base, and Daumerie Caserne.

AFAP from Page 1

G.E.T. for their dependents unless they are residing in one of the participating 35 states. Service members often reside outside their home of record or their dependents attend school in another state. This causes the service members, in most instances, to pay out-of-state tuition which increases the financial burden. The G.E.T. Program will allow service members and DA civilians to purchase educational credits, at the current rate, that can be used later in any of the participating 35 states. Personnel would be purchasing credits rather than placing money in a savings or investment account. This program offsets inflation of college tuition. Recommendations made: Establish a Department of Defense-wide Guaranteed Education Tuition Program. Allow service members an opportunity to pre-purchase up to 5 years of college at current rates for each child. DoD should join the G.E.T. Program since it offers service members the opportunity to send their family members to any state-run university or college in any of the participating 35 states at greatly reduced rates.

5. Additional Costs Resulting From VAT Taxes - In Belgium, soldiers and DoD civilians and their families are required to pay VAT tax when they make purchases on the economy. Recommendations made: Negotiate an agreement with the Belgian Government that exempts soldiers and DoD civilians from having to pay VAT in certain circumstances. Provide qualified Americans with a special card exempting them from paying VAT. Provide a system like the one they have in Germany. Americans in Germany have no problems with VAT.

6. Compensation for Active Duty Coaches - Military members who coach athletic programs within DoD schools are not compensated the same as teachers and other faculty members. Recommendation made: Amend the dual pay act to allow active duty personnel to receive pay for coaching high school sports.

7. Discrepancy Between Pacific and European Regions Space-A Leave Category -Service members within Europe are not afforded the same ordinary leave categories of Space-A Travel as those military personnel assigned to the Pacific Region. Recommendations made: All military personnel in Europe should be classified in Category 2- Environmental Morale, for ordinary leave. This suggested change to Space-A Travel would provide military personnel assigned to Europe the same advantage provided to personnel in the Pacific Region.

8. Establishment of Career Incentive Proficiency Pay to Enhance Retention - Retention of highly skilled personnel within DoD does not meet current force requirements. The loss of highly skilled personnel in all career fields disrupts continuity among DoD organizations resulting in mission uptempo being adversely affected. Recommendations made: Implement an Incentive Pay Program for military personnel who have gained additional career enhancing skills. Establish testing criteria for proficiency pay.

9. Exclude COLA from the CDC Childcare Fee Formula for OCONUS - The cost of living allowance (COLA) is being included in determining a family's "Total Family Income" and subsequently their fee category. Recommendations made: Eliminate the inclusion of COLA in factoring childcare fees. Conduct a test to compare CDC registration over a 6 month period comparing the cost with and without COLA. Exempt the income of spouses, E-4 and below, from the CDC formula. This would stimulate a better and younger workforce while enhancing the financial readiness of first term soldiers.

10. Treatment Availability for EFMP Family Members in Europe - Long-term treatment for serious illness is not available in most of Europe. Service members with an EFM have limited opportunities to PCS to Europe for career advancement. Recommendations made: Increase the number of active duty physicians in Europe. Contract with qualified local physicians who can provide necessary services. Create contract positions for American physicians who could then provide the necessary medical support needed by these EFMs.

The AFAP delegates also were tasked to select the Top Five Most Valuable Services. The magical five are AAFES/Commissary, SHAPE Schools, Medical/Dental, AFN, and MWR Gymnasiums. Many other issues surfaced during AFAP and all remaining issues were thought to be resolvable at the local level.

The Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) is input from the people of the Army to Army leadership. It's a process that allows soldiers, family members, and civilian employees an opportunity to say what's working and what isn't. It also provides them with a chance to suggest what they think will fix those problems. The process alerts local commanders and Army leaders to areas of concern that need their attention and it gives them the opportunity to quickly put plans into place to work toward resolving those issues.

Cronin is Director, Army Community Service, in the 80th ASG.

254th BSB Tri-border News

Tri-border 'egg hunt' a great success



Photos by Sylvia Bowron

Children and parents enjoy the festivities and take a food break during the 254th Base Support Battalion community Egg Hunt.

More than 400 kids between the ages of one and 12, romped and played at the 254th Base Support Battalion Easter Egg Hunt March 19, held at the Joint Forces Command Sports Field in Brunssum.

The festivities kicked off with a free pancake breakfast cooked and served by volunteers from the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) and the Airman Activity Program. According to Senior Airman Jesse Huber, one of the event coordinators, the turnout was great and they served breakfast to approximately 500 people.

After breakfast, children enjoyed the morning by taking part in various activities such as a scavenger hunt, playing on bouncy castles, riding the electric train, driving mini Ferrari cars and face painting.

The main event of the day, the 'egg hunt' took place on a football-sized field divided into three sections. One section

for younger children up to 3 years old, another for children 4 to 6 years old, and lastly for children 7 years and up.

An impromtu start had everyone scrambling for eggs. It took approximately one minute for the children to pick up 4,500 plastic eggs. Each egg was filled with candy or a piece of paper with a number to be redeemed for a special prize.

Craft tables where set up where children made bunny necklaces, window applicays, and for the artists and non-artists alike, there was an egg coloring contest.

Children of all ages were given paper eggs which they colored and turn in for judging.

Boys and girls, who

were up to the challenge, entered the pie eating contest. Competitors placed their hands behind their back and ate a vanilla pudding and whipped cream pies, until their pan was clean. Brianna Ragland, 9, won the first round of the contest. All winners of the various contests were announced later in the afternoon.

Parents and children were hopping from one side of the field to the other having fun, but the excitement peaked when the Easter Bunny showed up for photos with the kids.

The Torch Club, Keystone Club and Youth Services provided popcorn, and cotton candy. The JFC Brunssum Air Force Top Four Club sold grilled hot dogs and hamburgers for donations. "Monies donated will go back to the community," said Senior Master Sgt. Mike Scott. "We use it for the single service member's Thanksgiving din-

ner, scholarship funds, and diverse charities that benefit members of all branches of the armed forces. We also donate to the Airman's Attic, which donates items to families of military members E-4 and below in need of kitchen items, furniture, etc.," Scott concluded.

"We gave out 335 donated beanie babies," said Ellison Meier, chief of marketing and advertising for the battalion. "We gave one to each child who came by until we ran out."

The event began to wind down as children and parents filled up with lunch and festivities began to close for clean up. "We came last year and it was really nice, and heard nothing but great things about the event this year," said Chuck Kiser, a spouse. "I can't wait to see next years," Kiser added.

"I think this was a phenomenally successful event," said Peter Iedema, acting program manager for the battalion Youth Services. "The partnerships between the Child and Youth Services, JFC's Air Force Element, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) and the Geilenkirchen Family Support Center was super. Everything from the tasty breakfast to the egg hunt was something special for the families in our Tri-border community."



Parents follow their children as they scramble to collect as many eggs as they can find.

Taking on the challenge - the Sittard Kennedy Walk

Members of the 254th Base Support Battalion headed out early in the morning March 26, joining thousands of locals for the 42nd annual Sittard Kennedy March held in the southern province of Limburg, the Netherlands.

The Sittard Kennedy March began in 1963, when President John F. Kennedy said "I think most American people are so weak, they can't even walk 50 miles (80 km) within 20 hours." Four Sittard high school students took the challenge and started the march which is now an annual event.

Capt. John Lorenzen, director of Logistics, Capt. Jonathan Beck, director of Human Resources and Wayne Bardell, director of Morale, Welfare and Recreation decided to tackle the march when they heard about the challenge.

Bardell heard about the march five years ago when a co-worker, mentioned it to him. "After reading the literature on the concept of the walk, I committed myself to walking it each year," said Bardell. "As many times as I have mentioned this to other Americans, only Capt. Lorenzen took me up on the invitation last year."

Bardell has participated in the event for the past five years, and does no special preparation for the march. "It has got to be the craziest undertaking I have ever attempted," Bardell said. "Walking for 12 straight hours is not exactly exciting. It's actually rather boring and that plays a big factor in continuing to walk," he added.

Bardell says that much of the challenge is mental and everyone suffers the aches and pains, but the determined and persistent keep walking till the end. "Lorenzen suggested doing the march," said Beck. "He tried it last year and wanted to give it another try this year." Beck arrived in the Netherlands three weeks ago and thought this would be a great way to see the tri-border countryside.

"I really didn't do much preparation for the march," Beck said. "The first 50 km I thoroughly enjoyed," he said. "We walked at a good pace, but I still had time to enjoy the countries that we were walking through. At 60 km, I started getting sore and my mentality shifted to just completing the march," reflected Beck. "My feet started to develop a few "hot spots" after the 60 km mark, so I was very aware of that. I also focused on getting enough nutrients and hydration throughout the march," he said.

Beck has a few tips for others who are contemplating entering next year's Kennedy march. "Bring some moleskin for blisters, lots of water, and eat a lot of carbohydrates the night before the walk," he said. "Don't stop often. Have someone meet you at different points along the route to bring you food and water, that way you don't have to carry as much as I did. Also, find a good walking partner that will motivate you along the way. I enjoyed walking with Lorenzen. We had a lot of fun," Beck added.

"I felt really good about finishing the 80 kilometers. It was a lot longer than I thought it would be," stated Beck. "I am glad that I participated in the event and look forward to the rest of the time I have here in the Netherlands," he said.

Ad Vanderloo, organizer for the event,

was one of the four founding students in 1963. "We heard that a group in England took on the challenge and decided to give it a try," said Vanderloo. "There were 11 of us in all who did the walk that first year, but only 10 of us completed it." Vanderloo organized and completed the first five marches. After that he continued to be the organizer only missing one year in 42 events due to a military mission.

"There are 10 other Kennedy marches held in the Netherlands every year," said Vanderloo, "but ours is the oldest and the largest one of them all." Of the 3,148 participants in this year's march, 2,367 walkers successfully completed the event. Participants can begin at 5 a.m. and have until 1 a.m. to complete the walk. The fastest time this year was 8 hours, 7 minutes and 27 seconds. The march ended at 1 a.m., but one last walker had not checked in. "The last competitor got lost on the way back and came in at 1:15 a.m.," said Vanderloo. "We don't leave until everyone has come in," Vanderloo said.

To learn more about the Kennedy march, check out their website at www.kennedy mars.org.



Family and friends of competitors wait with flowers and accolades as the walkers return from the 80 km walk.

254th BSB Tri-border News

Volunteers provide much needed assistance

Volunteers from the 254th Base Support Battalion, Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, are assisting Child Youth Services (CYS) in Grafenwoehr and Vilseck Germany, during March and April, providing them much needed support necessitated by the return of their Soldiers from Iraq.

"Large influxes of Soldiers are returning home to the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck area from extended deployments," said Ken O'Meara, 80th Area Support Group (ASG) coordinator, "and many of the CYS employees that work in Youth Services (YS), School Age Services (SAS) and the Child Development Center (CDC) are family members. Since their spouses are coming home, many of them decided to take time off to reunite with their loved-ones and participate in the re-integration program. This causes a decrease in staff," said O'Meara.

The shortage of workers causes a decrease in the availability of openings for child care in all areas. "Instead of dropping the numbers of slots that we can afford, Installation Management Agency-Europe (IMA-E) sent a message out to the different installations asking for assistance so they wouldn't have to close child care rooms," said O'Meara. "They need volunteers who can work these rooms allowing their employees time with their families and the opportunity to get to know each other again after the long absence."

Soldiers returning home go through a reintegration process that lasts seven, half-days, and gradually reintroduces Soldiers to life outside the combat zone. Once they

have completed this process they will be able to take 30 day block leave.

Marilyn Carver was the first BSB member to arrive and has been working in the infant room of the CDC at Grafenwoehr since March 8. "Marilyn has been a huge help to us," said Kelly Roark, acting Grafenwoehr CDC director. "She had no experience working with infants, but has learned and adapted very well. We appreciate the help of our volunteers," Roark continued. "Every person counts and we appreciate her taking on this responsibility."

Joanne Hernandez, Child and Youth Services coordinator, who came to Schinnen after spending five years at CYS Baumholder, has just arrived at the Grafenwoehr CDC to join Marilyn. "I'm not sure where I will be assigned, but I will work in a room and take care of the children while their regular staff is on block leave with their spouses returning from Iraq," said Hernandez. Although she doesn't know what age group she will be working with, Hernandez stated she is ready to help.

"More than 95 percent of the Soldiers in Baumholder were deployed to Iraq," said Hernandez. "After their initial one-year tour of duty, they were extended for three more months. It was a stressful time for the whole community," she said.

"CYS suffered the same staffing shortages that are being felt in the 100th ASG right now," Hernandez continued. "We had college interns help us fill our vacant care giving positions. Without their help, we would not have been able to provide childcare to families, so now it is my turn to pay back."

Diane Broome, Schinnen CDC director will be heading to Germany in April to lend a hand at the CDC in Vilseck and is excited about going. Bloome, who has worked in a CDC setting for 26 years, has never gone TDY (temporary duty) before to pitch in and help at another center.

"I volunteered because I thought it would be a great opportunity for me to get back to my 'roots' so to speak," said Broome. "I'm a teacher by profession and when I first became the director here I came directly from the classroom and felt like I could relate, fully understand, and appreciate the feelings of my teachers here at the CDC.

"As time goes by, it's easy to loose sight of the daily triumphs and struggles that my staff faces," continued Broome, "It's also a great way to capture creative ideas that other centers have implemented and bring them back to our center.

Gwen Whitney, CYS youth services coordinator, is the only volunteer from the 80th ASG. Whitney has been working in the 4-year-old room at the CDC in Vilseck since March 3, and will return to her command in April.

"I truly admire the professionals who are going down there and giving up their personal time," said Wayne Bardell, director, for 254th BSB DMWR. "But, I also complement the staff here at Schinnen that step up to the plate and allow them to go," Bardell continued. "With three key people gone, there are three individuals here stepping up to assume their roles. This makes it truly a team effort," Bardell concluded.

New team has 'nose' for force protection

After months of anticipation the 254th Base Support Battalion finally welcomed the Tri-border areas newest crime fighters, Staff Sgt. Matthew Hoctel and his dog, Sgt. 1st Class Paco. The duo arrived in March from the 95th Military Police Battalion in Mannheim, Germany joining fellow handler Sgt. Keith Molin, who arrived in December.

"The two handlers and 'Paco' are here at our disposal," said Capt. Jayson Spangler, provost marshal, but can also be used by U.S. Army, Europe (USAREUR) when needed," "Their mission here is basically to do port sweeps in the Rotterdam area, but they will also conduct base security operations for the Schinnen area as well. Sweeps of Child Development Center (CDC), the post, mailroom, unsecured buildings and the facilities at Treebeek will be routine."

Paco, a Belgian Malinois, was born in Deventer, Netherlands, and bought by the Army when he was a year old. He received his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas with a training handler before arriving for duty in Germany

Hoctel was teamed with Paco when he arrived in Germany where they trained together. Once the team successfully completed a required certification course they were assigned to the 254th BSB.

"When a handler gets a new dog, they need time to get to know and trust each other," said Molin who is waiting to be teamed with his own dog. "The handler has to be able to control the dog at all times and the certification course is designed to test the team and ensure that the handler has complete control of the dog.

"When I left Ft. Drum, N. Y., to go to Korea, I went TDY (temporary duty) to Lackland Air Force Base to train as a handler," said Molin. "When I arrived in Korea, I was assigned a dog and had time to get to know him, work with



Photo by Sylvia Bowro

Staff Sgt. Matthew Hoctel and Paco pause while walking through the 254th BSB headquarters building.

him, and gain his trust. We also went through a certification course to ensure I could control the dog, and he would BSB," he said.

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obey all my commands."

Paco is not just a security dog; he is also trained to use his nose to identify explosives or explosive making materials. He is just one of the dogs teamed with a handler who will be assigned here to enhance force protection measures.

"We will be checking around the CDC and doing a lot of vehicle checks," said Molin. "We hope people will bear with us as we check the cars," he continued. "Some people get upset because they get stopped and are asked to step out of their vehicles.

"The occupants will have to move to the side for their safety, while the dog searches the vehicle," said Molin. "Occasionally the dog might leave a footprint inside the vehicle. I think a paw print is better than no security check and possibly being blown up," he concluded.

Paco will be staying in a newly built kennel here when he is not working. Construction of the kennel began in October 2003 and was completed in November 2004. The facility has easy to clean heated floors, an indoor bathing facility, kitchen for food preparation, automatic door openers to let the dog out into the run, and a ventilation system for the summer.

There is a side door from the kennel that opens to a training area where Paco and his fellow canine security force goes through obedience commands and aggression techniques.

In another separate area, Hoctel has Paco work the obstacle course.

"This dog gives the 254th the force protection assets it needs to use throughout our footprint," said Spangler. "The dog can be available, mission allowing, to do security sweeps before any special event sponsored by the 254th BSB." he said.

U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen unveils new logo

The 254th Base Support Battalion held a community-wide contest in January to design a new logo for the post when it transitions from the 254th BSB to U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen in October. Sal Espinoza, of the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Marketing and Advertising office, submitted the winning entry. His entry was chosen for the conceptual design that captures the overall complexity of the Tri-border community and its historical significance in Limburg region.

"We need a new logo to go with our new name," said Lt. Col. Rick Richardson, 254th BSB commander, and here at Schinnen I know we have the talent needed to design something really great."

Contestants were asked to consider the post's heritage, regional influences, Triborder maps, flags, castles and NATO symbols when developing their design concept.

their design concept.

"The entries we received were phenomenal, said Connie Andrews, Plans Analysis and Integration office; we have some really talented people here in the Tri-border area." Andrews explained, the committee

judging the entries took their task very seriously and had a difficult time making a

The contest generated lots of interest and 38 entries were received.

Prizes were awarded for first, second, and third place and were donated by the Andrews Federal Credit Union, the American Spouses Club and Bank of America (Military Bank).

The Installation Management Agency logo will remain the official crest for all installations worldwide, but Espinoza's winning entry will be used as the unofficial Schinnen logo. In addition, he received a \$500 cash prize. Patty Anderson won the second place prize of \$250 cash, and the third place prize of a \$300 savings bond (\$150 cash value) was awarded to Thomas Muldoon.

"The 254th BSB has a proud heritage and lineage, said Richardson; I believe the new logo encompasses all that is right with this area, our mission and our people. As in the past I believe the U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen will leave its mark on the Tri-border community, and the people it touches, Schinnen truly is *-Your the community of choice.*"

254th BSB Tri-border News

254th BSB Local Calendar

Medical Clinic posts closures

The Geilenkirchen U.S. Medical Clinic will be closed for the following NATO holidays. May 5 – Ascension Day; May 16 – Whit Monday and May 26 – Corpus Christi.

Red Cross Babysitter Training Course

Geilenkirchen American Red Cross is holding a Baby Sitting Course, April 16, and April 17, from 9 a.m. - noon. Cost is \$25 per child. Deadline to sign up is April 14th. This course is to teach children, 11 years old and over, what they need to know for basic child care, including basic CPR and first aid.

This course is open to all military and civilian personnel dependents (all nationalities). Contact Mary Gutscher at 0245 163-2068 (Germany) or email at arc_geilenkirchen@yahoo.com for more information or to sign up. Class sizes are limited.

Fitness Center offers new classes

Spinning and Crazy Circuits classes have been added to the Fitness Centers regime. Spinning classes are held Fridays from noon to 1 p.m. and Crazy Circuits are held Mondays from noon to 1 p.m. For more information call DSN 360-7560 or 31 (0)46 443-7560.

Vendor stockers wanted

Vendor stockers are needed evenings, hours are flexible. Contact Deborah Crain, Schinnen Commissary 360-7515.

Alliance Theatre presents "Plaza Suite"

The Alliance Players will perform Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite" April 28-30 and May 1, at the JFC Alliance Theatre. Show times

are: April 28, Sneak Preview Charity Night at 6:30 p.m. (all proceeds will go to the International Red Cross); April 29, 8:00 p.m.; April 30, 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. and May 1 at 4 p.m. Tickets are 6 Euro and will go on sale April 1, 2005 at JFC Brunssum- The HIVE-contact Jo McKerrel at 31(0) 45 526 -891 and at Geilenkirchen JVD Elementary School-contact Sandy Basseet at 49 2452 15-6006

Volunteers recognized

Army Community Services holds the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony April 19, 4-6p.m. Info: Teri Ryan at DSN 360-7451 or 31 46 443-7451.

Donate unwanted items

If you are getting ready to PCS why not donate your *un-packables* to the Thrift Shop. Items accepted are: refrigerated and/or canned food; Household cleaners; European only items (i.e. appliances etc.) and potted plants.

On-duty courses offered by the Treebeek Education Center

Dutch Headstart classes will be held May 31 – June 10, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday through Friday at the education center. All military newcomers and their family members are welcome to participate in the Headstart classes. The program is free of charge and designed to acquaint participants with their host nation.

The Advanced Skill Education Program (ASEP) course, MTPF 1170, Personal Financial Management for NCOs I, is offered April 18 – 22, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Mon-

day-Friday at the Treebeek Education Center. The course is also offered at the unit based on unit request and student availability. This course is designed to enhance leadership and job skills and students can receive one hour civilian college credit also. Units can MIPR the course for on-site training.

Functional Academic Skills Training (FAST) is being offered June 3-24, Monday through Friday from 1-5 p.m. FAST is a job-related reading and mathematics program. Being able to solve problems, understand what is read and also write effectively as necessary to succeed in any field.

For more information on these classes call the Education Center at DSN 364-6060/41 or CIV 31 45 563-6060/41.

Anheuser-Busch 'Heroes Salute'

Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc. 'Heroes Salute' is offering a free single-day admission to its Sea World and Busch Gardens parks to active duty military, active reservists, U.S. Coast Guard, National Guardsmen. The program began Feb. 7, and continues through Dec. 31, to honor U.S. Armed Services personnel.

Military personnel and their families who may be taking leave, or who have family in the states may take advantage of the program by registering at **www.herosalute.com**. Dependents may take advantage of the offer without their service member, though an adult must accompany minor dependents. For more information go to **www.herosalute.com**.

Electricity, fire prevention

Appliances could be hazardous source

Electrical appliances are not fire hazards, but, if tampered with, incorrectly installed, not maintained, or just plain worn out, they can become fire hazards.

Every electrical appliance generates heat when it is switched on and, if this heat cannot escape through natural ventilation, the appliance can overheat and possibly catch fire.

Allow sufficient clearance around electrical appliances. If electrical appliances are not in use switch them off. Avoid using extension cords with multiple outlets for an indefinite period of time.

Extension cords are made for temporary situations only, they are subject to overloading and can easily be damaged through normal wear and tear causing a short or overheating of the wiring.

Don't give a fire a chance to start. For more fire prevention information, contact Rob Walraven, Directorate, Public Works fire chief at 31 (0)46 443-7230.

Leisure Activities ~ by Rita Hoefnagels

Apr. 8-10: *Lifestyle Garden Fair* at Castle Ooidonk in Deinze (BE) with plants, garden furniture, antiques and lots more. Open: Friday, 2-6:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Information: 32 (0)47 735-

Benelux Computer. Computer fair in Beursgebouw on Lardinoisstraat in Eindhoven (NL). Entry: Euro 8. Information: 31 (0)40 246-3626.

Apr. 9-10: *Guided Tours Fortress* at Eben-Emael in Belgium. This military stronghold located at an impressive site is still armed. Tours are between 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Entry: Euro 5; children Euro 2.50. Information: www.fort-eben-emael.be.

Flea Market at MECC in Maastricht (NL). Open both days 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: Euro 3.

Thru Apr. 10: At the *Household Fair* at RAI in Amsterdam (NL) visitors will find the newest trends in fashion, living, food, work, recreation, household and more. Entry: Euro 13.50; children (5-12) Euro 5.50. Information: 31 (0)20-5491212.

Miniature Quilts Exhibition at Klooster Agnetenberg, Rosmolenstraat 22-24a in Sittard (NL). The exhibition has about 180 miniature quilts on display. Many are from Japan, the US and Germany. Open: Apr. 6, noon-5 p.m.; other days, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: Euro 4.

Apr. 10: *Plantenbeurs*, plant and flower fair on Hopmarkt in the center of Asse (Belgium). Open: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 32 (0)2 452-3182.

Spring Garden Fair in the old convent park with many stands and attractions at Ursulinenklooster, Molenhofstraat 31 in Heikruis (Belgium). Open: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 32 (0)2 396-0039.

Apr. 14-17: *Blossom Festival*, a large inand outdoor event with everything for home and garden. The fair is held at the Castle Ravesteyn Estate near the town of Heenvliet (NL). Information: 31 (0)10 438-3171.

Apr. 15-17: *Art & Antique Fair* at RAI in Amsterdam (NL). Entry: Euro 7.50. Informa-

tion: 31 (0)20 549-1212.

Apr. 15-24: *Floralien Gent.* A large garden fair held every 5 years at Flanders Expo in Gent (Belgium). Information: 32 (0)9 241-9211.

Apr. 17: *MotoProm*, a large fair with new as well as second-hand motorbikes, accessories and clothes at Glanerbrook in Geleen (NL). Open: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: Euro 6; children Euro 3. Information: 31 (0)46 458-8399.

Apr. 17-24: *Art & Antique Fair* at Brabanthallen in Den Bosch (NL). Entry: Euro 12. Information: 31 (0)73 629-3911.

Apr. 21-24: *Groen & Doen*, large garden fair at RAI in Amsterdam (NL). Open: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 31 (0)20 549-1212.

Apr. 22-24: *Pasar Malam Hengelo*, Asian market at ExpoCenter in Hengelo (NL). Entry: Euro 6.50. Information: 31 (0)74 255-9559.

Thru May 16: "Hongerwinter 44/45" Exhibition at Museum van de Twintigste Eeuw, Bierkade 4 in Hoorn (NL). Sixty years ago the Dutch experienced a horrendous final WWII winter. It was an extremely cold winter and many people starved. Memories of this winter of starvation are relived in this exposition through poignant stories and numerous objects. Admission: Euro 4. Information: 31 (0)22 921-4001.

Thru May 20: The "Keukenhof," the world's largest flower garden near the city of Lisse in the Dutch province of "Noord-Holland" is open again. The park owes its name to Countess Jacoba van Beieren who had herbs and vegetables for her kitchen grown in her garden. Over six million flower bulbs provide beautiful scenic spots throughout the park and three large glass flower palaces are filled with tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and smaller flowers. The several flower shops in the park can mail bulbs to the States for customers. Open daily, 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Admission booths close at 6 p.m. Entry is Euro 12.50; children ages 4-11 years Euro 5.50. Information: www.keukenhof.nl.

Thru June 12: All Dali at Museum

Boijmans van Beuningen on Museumpark 18-20 in Rotterdam (NL). This exhibition presents the unknown side of Salvador Dali. Paintings, drawings, photos and other items show Dali's versatility. Objects on display include the Mae West Lip Sofa and the painting "Figueras". Admission is Euro 12. Information: 31 (0)10 441-9475

Thru Sept. 2: Traditional *Cheese Market* in the center of Alkmaar (NL) where the bearers wear the traditional costumes of their guild and visitors will also find demonstrations of Old Crafts. Open *only* on Fridays,

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Thru Nov. 1: The historic castle of Arcen (NL) has opened its *gardens*, *castle and park* to the public again. The large estate has a rosarium with 10 different rose gardens, fir woods with native plants, ferns, moss and fungus, a large lake, creeks and waterfalls. The park has also many animals and a large playground. Open daily Mar. 20-31, April and Oct. 1-Nov. 1, 10 a.m.-to 5 p.m. and May-Sept., 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: Euro 12; Children (4-14) Euro 5. Information: www.kasteeltuinen.nl.



April 1, 7:30 p.m., *Alone in the Dark*, Starring Christian Slater, Tara Reid, Rated R. A supernatural detective named Carnby travels to Shadow Island to solve the mystery of a friend's death. While there, he discovers the secrets of the Abskani, an ancient tribe that worshiped demonic forces which gave them incredible powers. Carnby's findings suggest that the Abskani are poised to return to take over the world. Carnby must now fight against their attempts to take over his mind as well as their attempts to conquer the earth.

April 2, 4 p.m., *Coach Carter*, Starring Samuel L. Jackson, Robert Richard, Rated PG-13. Coach Ken Carter found himself in the center of controversy when he locked out his entire Varsity basketball team (including his own son) in order to motivate and push them to improve their grades. He was even prepared to cancel his entire season after 15 of his 45 players failed to live up to the classroom standards try agreed to in a contract they had signed earlier in the semester.

7 p.m. *Hide and seek*, Starring Robert DeNiro, Dakota Fanning, Rated R. As a widower tries to piece together his life in the wake of his wife's suicide, he discovers that his young daughter is coping with the each one a strange and scary manner. His daughter, Emily, finds solace by creating a creepy, maniacal imaginary friend with a terrifying vendetta. Imaginary friends can seem so real....

April 8, 7:30 p.m., *Phantom of the Opera*, Starring Gerard Butler, Emmy Rossum, Rated PG-13. A disfigured musical genius haunts the catacombs beneath the Paris Opera, waging a reign of terror over occupants. When he falls fatally in love with the lovely Christine, he's smitten and wants Christine for his own, but Christine meets up with their childhood acquaintance Raoul and the two fall in love. Feeling betrayed, the Phantom decides to kidnap her and imprison her with him in his lair. Raoul is now the only one who can stop him.

April 9, 4 p.m., *The Wedding Date*, Starring Debra Messing, Dermot Mulroney, Rated PG-13. Kat Ellis's worst nightmare is about to come true. Not only is her younger, half-sister, Amy, getting married before her, but to add insult to injury, the groom's best man is Kat's ex-fiancée, Jeffrey. Unable to bear the thought of attending alone, she hires an escort to play her boyfriend. Her rented date fits the bill perfectly. He's handsome, intelligent, well spoken and a perfect gentleman. The plan? Make Kat's ex sorry that he ever let her go.

SHAPE / Chièvres Local Calendar

New: Family Readiness Group (FRG) meetings every second Friday of the month, 7-8:30 p.m., at the Prime Time Lounge.

Army Volunteer Corps - *April 20*, deadline to RSVP for ceremony; *April 29*, 12-2 p.m., annual volunteer awards ceremony, IC Club SHAPE. Open to entire community. Info: DSN 423-4270.

BOSS - Next meeting April 21, 1:30 p.m., Community Activity Center, SHAPE

Arts and Crafts Classes - April 9, 23 10:30 a.m.-noon, power tool orientation class; April 11, 9 a.m.-noon, basketry for beginners; April 12, May 3, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., basic ceramics; April 13-27, 4-6 p.m., children's ceramics, April 16, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., quilting: all day. Bldg. 209, SHAPE. DSN 423-4680.

ACS Newcomers Briefing: April's newcomers orientation starts the second Wednesday of the month, followed by Take the Bus class on Thursday, Take the Train class Friday and Cultural Adaptation Trip Saturday. Info: ACS, 423-4332.

ACS financial classes: *April 26*, 9-10.30 a.m. Saving and Investing. For info call DSN 423-4824.

Entertainment Centre news - Auditions for *A Few Good Men*, by Aaron Sorkin, Auditions for new play: *April 11* at 12 p.m., *April 12* at 7.30 p.m., and *April 13-14* at 6 p.m.. Advanced Acting Class by Dan Lamorte, *April 18-19*, 6-9 p.m., depending on number of participants. Singers and actors needed for July 2 Independence Day performance. Shape Entertainment Centre info: www.shape online.net, DSN 423-3312, 065 44 33 12.

Self Care Class - *April 12*, 10-11 a.m., SHAPE Health Clinic, second floor, conference room., DSN 423-5948.

Cultural Adaptation Trip - April 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit a Belgian vintage store, guided tour of one of the oldest breweries in Brussels. Cost is Euro 5 and includes the entry fee. Seating is limited. Info: DSN 423-4332. Prime Time Lounge - Lunch served Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Lounge opens Wed.-Fri. at 5 p.m., weekends at 7 p.m. Karaoke Night, every Friday, 8.30 p.m. Country Night every second Saturday, 8:30 p.m.

SHAPE Trips and Tours - April 11-16, Two country shopping tour; April 16, Delft and Keukenhof; April 17, Rhine River cruise; April 23, Versailles; April

24, horseback riding in Cuesmes; April 30, horseback riding in Chaleux; bldg. 307, Community Activity Centre, SHAPE. Info: 065 44 3884, DSN 423-3884, or Email: ST&T@benelux. army.mil.

Health and Wellness - *Weight Loss Classes* meet every Wednesday, 10-11 a.m., SHAPE

Health clinic, 2nd floor, conf. room. Weight Loss Support group meets 3 times a week a various locations throughout the community. Contact DSN 423-5948 for dates and locations. *Tobacco Cessation clinic* every Wednesday, 3-4 p.m. at the SHAPE Health Clinic, Pharmacy, DSN 423-5948.



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

Allie Kilroy, 8, a third-grader at Brussels American School, races to collect an Easter egg March 26 during one of four hunts sponsored by the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation-Brussels.

Summer jobs set

Teens in U.S. military communities can again cash in on some work experience via the USAREUR Summer Hire program.

"It's for family members between 14-22 and you must be a family member of an active military member or a DOD civilian employee," said Perry Deiwert, 80th Area Sup-

port Group Human Resources Specialist, "but it excludes retired military members and contract workers. In Luxembourg, only U.S. citizens are eligible to apply."



Deiwert

In other countries, host nation youth can apply

if they have a relationship with U.S. active duty and civilian personnel.

Work is generally divided into administrative assistance and manual labor.

On-line applications are being accepted now at www.chrma.hqusareur.army.mil/ staffing/summerhire and recruitment ends May 13. The employment runs June 27-August 5 and pay is a bit over \$5 per hour.

"Applicants will be able to go online and to find out where they'll be going to work, what you're going to be doing and where to report," Deiwert said.

Managers can submit requests for personnel action until May 20.

For more information Email summerhire_inquiries@cpoceur.army.mil or call Perry Deiwert at DSN 361-5422 or 068 275422.

NSA Brussels Calendar

NSA Outdoor recreation: *April 9* - Day-trip to Keukenhof Flower Fields & Delft; *April 16* - Day trip to Paris; *April 30*-Day trip to Amsterdam. Call for info DSN 368-9775

NSA newcomer's briefing: April 19, 8.45 a.m.-2.30 p.m. - Overview, NSA, Bldg. 3, Command Conference Room; April 20, 9.30 a.m.-noon, Tour Leuven Hospital, meet at ACS, Bldg. 4 at 9.25 a.m.; April 21, 9.30-11 a.m., Tour Delhaize in Kraainem, meet at ACS, Bldg. 4, NSA; April 22, 9.25 a.m.-2.30 p.m. - Metro Madness Class, ACS, Bldg 4, top floor, DSN 368-9729 or DSN 368-9783.

Army Volunteer Corps, *April 17* – National Volunteer week, NSA, room 306; *April 22* – Deadline to RSVP for Annual Installation Volunteer Recognition, DSN 368-9679; *April 29*, 7.30 p.m.-midnight – Annual Installation Volunteer Recognition Ceremony, Three-Star Lounge, Bldg. 1, NSA, DSN 368-9822.

Free ACS computer classes: April 18, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. – Word;

April 19, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. – Excel; April 20, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. – PowerPoint and Outlook; April 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. – Access. **NSA Education Center:** April 13, 8.30 a.m. CLEP, DANTES, ECE and other selected tests; April 18-29, 9 a.m.-noon - Headstart: Free Dutch Language Orientation Course; April 27, 12-1 p.m. - Special briefing: Creative ways of completing a degree. For info: DSN 368-9704.

Family matters, *April 28-May 1*, (formerly known as Parent University). Call DSN 368-9693 for times and location.

Three-Star Lounge April events

April 14, 21 and 28 from 7 p.m.-midnight – Movie Night; April 8, 9 p.m. Dart Night; April 9, 7-9 p.m. Family Night; April 15, 22, 9 p.m. Karaoke; April 22, 6 p.m. Chili Cook-Off, Live Band: Breakin' Silence 2 and Pool Tournament; April 23, 7.30 p.m. Steak Night (reserve in advance); April 16, 29, 30 Private functions (closed to public). Info: DSN 368-9822.

Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy due (noon) Print Date April 11 April 22 May 9 May 20 June 17 July 4 June 6 July 15 April 25 May 23 May 6 June 20 June 3 July 1 July 18 July 29

About Us Meteor-Heraut

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Policy

- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
- Articles in plain text and separate photographic files may be submitted but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor. All submissions should be in electronic form as plain text. We cannot process information in documents such as PowerPoint, Excel or Acrobat.
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Deadline

Commanders

Copy and photographs are due by noon 10 calendar days before publication date.

K-Town sweeps season-opening track meet

By J.D. Hardesty

BRUSSELS -- The Kaiserslautern Raiders' boys and girls track teams swept the season-opening track meet at Brussels American School March 26.

The Raiders' boys team, led by two relay victories, Jamal Anene's win in the 800 meters, Gregory Thompson's tying leap in the long jump with Malcom Lane of Hanau and Brian Hill's winning toss in the shot put scored 161 to outdistance Hanau and Mannheim, who scored 136 and 110 points respectively.

Brussels Brigands' Nathan Malinski finished third in the 1,500 meters with a 4:55.43.

Lindsley Hyter led the Raiders' girls team with three individual first-place finishes and running the second leg for the K-Town girls 400-meter relay victory.

Hyter won the 200 meters, the 300 intermediate hurdles and the long jump as the Raiders raced out from out front most of the afternoon scoring 179 points to easily top the SHAPE Spartans 109-point total. The Mannheim Bison and Hanau Panthers tied for third with 72 points apiece.

The Spartan's Stephanie Gonzales notched wins in the 400and 800-meters and Safiya Myres raced 1,500 meters in 5:46 to outpace everyone for her victory. Elizabeth Hauser claimed the 3,000meter event in 14:09.71, leading fellow teammates Kara Kappenmann (15:38.93) and Amanda Kaster (16:32.09) for a SHAPE sweep of the longest event for distance runners.

Boy's Results Boys team scoring: Kaiserslautern 161,



Hanau Panther Xavier James clears 5 feet, 9 inches to tie Kaiserslautern Raiders' Julian Smalls for first place in the high jump. Kaiserslautern's boys and girls teams notched wins in the first high school track meet of the season

17.15: 3. Shawn Banuchi (Bit) 19.93.

400 relay: 1, Hanau (King, Ketrone

Blanks, Logan Peter, Lane) 44.62; 2,

Mannheim (Womble, Green, Gaston,

Brown) 47.31; 3, Kaiserslautern

(Ferguson, Persly, Strawder, Banks)

1,600 relay: 1, Kaiserslautern (Jung,

300 hurdles: Unavailable

47.37

Hanau 136, Mannheim 110, Scores unavailable for Bitburg, Brussels, SHAPE. 100 meters: 1, Jamal Womble (Mann) 10.03; 2, (tie) Drew King (Han) and Malcolm Lane (Han) 11.18.

200: 1, King, 23.15; 2, Gregory Thompson (Kais) 23.56; 3, Aaron Ellis (Han) 23.71

400: 1, Lane, 51.00; 2, Ellis, 52.06; 3, Jamal Anene (Kais) 53.40.

800: 1, Anene, 2:16; 2, Chris Wert (Mann) 2:18: 3. Steven Burnett (Kais)

1,500: 1, Tim Spicer (Mann) 4:51.25; 2, Kyle Fluker (Bit) 4:54.68; 3, Nathan Malinski (Brus) 4:55.43.

3,000: 1, Wert, 9:58; 2, Burnett 10:00; 3, Spicer, 10:16. 110 high hurdles: 1, Khali Brown (Mann) 16.21; 2, Mike Romero (Bit)

Robinson, Smith, Brown) 3:55.06; 2, Mannheim (Yingling, Cuffee, Brown, unavailable) 3:56.53; 3, Mannheim (Bur-

ton, Harell, Weaver, Williams) 3:56.53. 3,200 relay: 1, Kaiserslautern (Johnson, Persly, Anene, Burnett) 9:00; 2, Mannheim (Diaz, Cook, Spicer, Wert) 9:10; 3, Hanau (Burton, Ellison, Weaver, Williams) 9:34

Sprint medley relay: 1, Brussels (Pierce, Popp, Malinski, Reimann) 4:13.06; 2, Hanau (Blanks, King, Peter, Williams) 4:13.84; 3, Mannheim (Yingling, Gaston, Ward, Spicer)

High jump: 1, Xavier James (Han) and Julian Smalls (Kais) 5 feet, 9inches; 3, Chris Ferguson (Bit) 5-7.

Long jump: 1, (tie) Thompson and Lane, 19-1; 3, Simon Shaw (Bit) 18-5.

Triple jump: 1, Thompson, 40-7; (others not available)

Shot put: 1, Brian Hill (Kais) 36-4.75; 2, Terrence Smith (Han) 34-2.75; 3, Allan Brent (Bit) 33-0.75

Discus: 1, Smith, 117-3.75; 2, Brent, 100-0.25; 3, Raynor Buckley (Bit) 96-6. Girl's Results

Girls team scoring: Kaiserslautern 179, SHAPE 109, Mannheim 72, Hanau 72 Scores for Bitburg and Brussels unavail-

100 meters: 1, LaToya Tidwell (Mann) 12.75; 2, Alvisa Freeman (Bit) 13.68; 3, Brittany Smith (Kais) 14.18.

200: 1, Lyndsley Hyter (Kais) 27.21; 2, Tidwell, 27.43; 3, Yannick Green (Mann) 27.96.

400: 1, Stephanie Gonzales (SHP) 63.58; 2, Tidwell, 69.31; 3, Alexis Padgett (Han) 70.09

800: 1, Gonzales, 2:38; 2, Nicole Speight (Han) 2:49; 3, Brooklyn Matthews (Mann) 2:53.

1,500: 1, Safiya Myers (SHP) 5:46; 2, Elizabeth Hauser (SHP) 6:10.90; 3, Alex Cobos (Bit) 6:13.90

3,000: 1, Hauser, 14:09.71; 2, Kara Kappenmann (SHP) 15:38.93; 3, Amanda Kaster (SHP) 16:32.09.

100 low hurdles: 1, Teena Robinson (Kais) 19.56; 2, Lauren Elder (Mann) 19.59; 3, Melissa Warner (Kais) 19.84. 300 intermediate hurdles: 1, Hyter, 49.56; 2, Mandra Smith (Kais) 53.46;

400 relay: 1, Kaiserslautern (Harvey, Hyter, Robinson, Warner) 54.09; 2, SHAPE (Marquez, Smith, Battle, Myers) 57.78; 3, Hanau (Elder, Ellis, Green, Padgett) 57.82.

1,600 relay: 1, Kaiserslautern (Crump, Harvey, M. Smith, B. Smith) 4:43.00; 2, Hanau (Harell, Jackson, McCoy, Padgett) 5:54.34; 3, Kaiserslautern (Clark, Hamilton, Mason, Volkert) 5:54.34. 3,200 relay: 1, Kaiserslautern (Hamilton, Mason, Smith, Volkert) 12:24.90; 2, Hanau (Ellis, Lamberti, McNeal, Jennifer Arndt) 12:51.50.

Sprint medley relay: 1, SHAPE (Gonzales, McGee, Marquez, Myers) 4:57.65; 2, Kaiserslautern (Crump, Moore, M. Smith, B. Smith) 5:19.15; 3, Hanau (Eddie, Ellis, McNeal, Prahm) 5:43.21.

High jump: 1, Ariel Martin (Mann) 4 feet, 6 inches; 2, (tie) Tiffany McNeal (Han) and Ashanti McNeal (Han) 4-2. Long jump: 1, Hyter 15-9; 2, Cristian Green (Han) 13-7; 3, Freeman, 13-4. Triple jump: 1, Warner, 30-4; 2, Shondrika Harvey (Kais) 28-7; 3, Dekia Moore (Kais) 28-5.

Shot put: 1, Moore, 31-4.5; 2, Alycia Mixon (Kais) 21-0; 3, Rebeccas Critics (Brus) 20-3.25.

prices Gas jump again

By J.D. Hardestv

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service announced overseas fuel prices jumped for those assigned in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, the Azores, the United Kingdom, and Turkey.

The new overseas fuel prices went into effect April 1.

In the Netherlands, fuel sell prices for all grades including diesel were set at the

"floor" selling price, per AAFES Board of Directors policy, the announcement noted. "Floor" prices occur when the cost of fuel plus dispensing costs is greater than the Department of Energy average plus dispensing costs. Exchange customers filling up their gas tanks in the Netherlands saw super-unleaded jump 20 cents to \$2.462 per gallon, super-plus unleaded increased 21 cents to \$2.737 per gallon, and diesel fuel climbed 35 cents to \$2.718 per gallon.

AAFES does not dispense fuel in Belgium. Fuel cards are purchased from Fina and resold to personnel with ration cards supporting the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers, Europe/NATO community.

According to Tracy Pierson, a customer service representative at the AAFES Chièvres Air Base Post/Base Exchange, Fina 200-liter fuel cards in Belgium climbed 4 percent to \$112.35 for unleaded grade 95, a jump of seven cents per gallon. Other fuel card increases include \$118.93 for super unleaded grade 98, a seven-cent per gallon hike; and \$134.72 for diesel fuel, a 12-cent per gallon increase, according to Pierson. Comparative per gallon prices in Belgium rose to \$2.12, \$2.25 and \$2.55 respectively.

In Germany, the AAFES per gallon prices climbed: unleaded - \$2.190; super-unleaded fuel - \$2.284, super plus - \$2.374, diesel -

Elsewhere in Europe, AAFES reported gas price increases in the Azores for super plus unleaded jumped to \$2.319 per gallon. In Turkey, prices for super plus rose to \$2.327 per gallon while prices for super-unleaded fuel and diesel remained at \$2.340 and \$2.280

According to the Department of Energy, the average price for regular unleaded fuel in the U.S. is 36.6 cents a gallon higher than it was at the same time last year. AAFES uses U.S. average fuel prices as an index to set its overseas prices.

Model NATO gives high schoolers peek at diplomacy

By J.D. Hardesty

Seventy students from 18 different nations participated in the 28th Annual Model NATO program in a simulation at NATO Headquarters in Brussels March 17.

The program, a Benelux High School simulation of the North Atlantic Council, is organized by the Brussels American School in close cooperation with the US

Mission to NATO and the NATO Office of Public Affairs.

NATO Secretary General, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, opened the event as the guest speaker, welcoming the students and discussed NATO, its relevance and the unique challenges NATO faces today.

"This is the first time I know of the Secretary General of NATO



NATO Secretary General, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer welcomed students from 18 different nations at the 28th Annual Model NATO program.

director of Model NATO and edu- School, the International School to reach consensus on these cator. "I think the secretary general speaking and, after witnessing the communiqués debates, the students became increasingly aware of the importance of NATO's role. It is waxing, not

The secretary general was very accessible. He took time to give his vision of NATO and took answer and questions with the stu-

weigning."

According to Vanhorst, NATO's leader emphasized the organization is as essential or more essential as it ever has been.

"He highlighted how NATO's partnership now reaches all the way to the borders of Afghanistan," Vanhorst said. "And, a fleet of ships under NATO flag has gone to the middle east -- and that is a first."

Students from AFNORTH High

has addressed the Model NATO School, the British School of see how policies are shaped within students," said Chris Vanhorst, the Brussels, the Brussels American this organization. They attempted of Brussels, St. John's International and SHAPE International High School prepared for the simulation by researching current NATO issues and developed commun-iqués from the perspectives of 19 of NATO's 26-member nations.

> The extra-curricular activity for the students from six schools starts in March when they are briefed by different missions at the headquarters in Brussels.

According to Vanhorst, youthful delegates are given a week to prepare to represent countries and issues with which they are not fa-

Topics this year included the NATO Response Force, Missile Defense, NATO's future role in the Balkans and apprehension of war criminals. During the simulation, students have the opportunity to communiqués through parliamentary debate.

"With 19 countries represented by three delegates, the students try to pass as many communiqués as possible via consensus through the simulation," Vanhorst said. "They passed two of the eight communiqués introduced. Logistics prevented us from expanding the simulation to include the seven new nations that joined NATO two years ago."

Vanhorst explained that many of these same students are involved in the International Model United Nations at the Hague.

Model NATO is a much small forum that the International Model United Nations at the Hague.

Our small size allows students to become integrally involved in the parliamentary debate," he said. "Students play their roles well."

80th Support Group tested in Vietnam

Editor's Note: A unit's honors, lineage and history are well documented, but it is the Soldiers and leaders who take the most knowledge of any unit's era with them. The following are excerpts from a University of New Mexico history class lecture by Col. (Ret.) James R. Gober, former commander of the 80th Area Support Group. He shares his knowledge of the 80th at the time he was deployed supporting the war in Vietnam in July 1971.

By Col. (Ret.) James R. Gober

"I welcome the invitation to be part of bridging the past and present to help preserve the history of our distin-



Grober

guished 80th Group. You are named 'Area Support.' We were designated 'General Support.' The common and significant word is Support.

"The units of the 80th were located far apart. They were scattered from Red Beach, 20-road miles north of Da Nang, to Chu Lai, 60air miles north of Da Nang. These distances don't seem far by comparison to comparable distances in the states, but then one

considers the few roads during the war and that the Viet Cong operated in the villages and in the lush, tropical growth between American enclaves, considerable care had to be taken and much preparation made when visiting units.

"The 277th Supply and Service Battalion, located at Chu Lai, was the principal unit of the 80th Group providing all classes of supply, to include ammunition through its ammunition supply point operations. This unit provided all outside support to the major military units in the area, the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal.)

"Upon visiting the 277th, I was pleased to see that the relationship between my battalion at Chu Lai and the division was first class. Had the opposite been true, this could have been a constant worry.

"In logistics, we were involved in a program the United States called Vietnamization, a term that meant passing the

Vietnamese the materials and body of knowledge to allow them to pursue the war by themselves. Under a logistics sub-program called Keystone, we received unserviceable American military equipment fro U.S. units, repaired the items, cannibalizing some for parts, then, issuing them to the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces.

"The 80th Group was deep into Keystone. Beginning in 1969 with the 9th Inf. Div., followed by the 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions, and proceeding through June 1972, U.S. forces in Vietnam had decreased from 519,000 to 49,000. The Group's processing points, beginning in July 1971, received tanks, artillery, vehicles, all types of individual and unit weapons and equipment, from the 1st Brigade,

5th Inf. Div. (Mechanized). They were followed by the 173rd Airborne Brig., two of three brigades of the 23rd Inf. Div., and the entire 101st Airborne Div. (Mobile).

"In January 1972, we were directed to stand down the 80th Group Headquarters. It had become an excellent organization of dedicated Soldiers. I cased the colors signifying the removal from the rolls of units assigned to U.S. Army, Vietnam. There was a strong sense of pride, but also a passing sadness to see six years of continuous service end for an organization that had done a remarkable job. The group was awarded the Army Meritorious Unit Citation for that period."

80 Area Support Group Distinctive Unit Insignia - Description: A gold color metal and enamel device 1 1/8 inches (2.86cm) in height overall, consisting of a gold grape leaf, stem to base, bearing throughout a red sword point up between two red flames all above a red perimetric arched red scroll bearing the inscription **"SHARPEN THE** SWORD" in gold letters. Symbolism: The grape leaf is used to represent the Central

for these campaigns during World War II. The flames also relate to the Ordnance Corps insignia and allude to the unit's descent. The crusader sword refers to Vietnam. Background: The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 80th General Support Group on June 9, 1969. It was re-

Europe and Rhineland area and

the two flames symbolize the two

battle honors awarded the unit

designated for the 80th Area Support Group on April 16, 1985.

krainians spend spring break touring local schools

By Tom Larscheid

BRUSSELS – Braving a long, sometimes bumpy 48-hour bus ride, eight educators from First City Gymnasium and Cherkasy National University, Cherkasy, Ukraine, spent their spring break March 20-26 visiting U.S. Department of Defense Schools in Brussels and Casteau (SHAPE), Belgium.

The visit, sponsored by the Benelux Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa International, the professional association in education, offered the educators a chance to share experiences with teachers, students and administrators.

"The visit provided our guests the opportunity to see the new and innovative programs of our schools," said Bobbie Greenawald, Benelux Chapter president. "They were able to compare and contrast the differences in Brussels American School and SHAPE elementary and high schools, and also that of St. John's International School."

For Alex Butov, a teacher and translator. the trip offered a chance to travel and

broaden his hori-

abroad meeting

different people, especially when

these people are

your colleagues,"

he said. "We are

able to share experiences and differ-

ent methods of

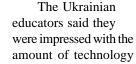
"I like being



the trip to see in practice what she calls the "democratic method of teaching." "Under communism, education was

mostly memorization and heavily bureaucratic," she said. "Schools here are

wonderful. I'm impressed by the devotion of the teachers and the motivation of the students. They want to learn. That is the greatest value."

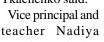


Potomkina amount of technology integrated into the SHAPE and Brussels Department of Defense Schools.

'Brussels American School and SHAPE are ahead of their time, I think," said Lyudmila Tkachenko, a teacher recognized for bringing American-style education methods into Ukrainian classrooms. "They work with new techniques. It was very interesting to see the lesson where students work with computers."

Tkachenko celebrates all the major American holidays and traditions with her class as a way for them to know the world around

"Our education system is changing and there is a lot to be done. The communicative approach to education makes me believe I can make a difference,' Tkachenko said.

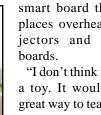




Ananieva, who has traveled extensively visiting many American schools in the States, said this was the first time she has had the opportunity to visit U.S. Department of Defense Schools.

"I was overwhelmed at what I saw at Brussels American School," she said. "We were not only able to visit lots and lots of classes, but we had a wonderful cultural program as well. The partnership between students and teachers is amazing."

Ananieva said she was taken in by a new addition to the classroom, an interactive



Ananieva So much was new for

smart board that replaces overhead projectors and black-

"I don't think it's just a toy. It would be a great way to teach language. It would be wonderful to get away from chalk and erasers.

us. I could only read about child-centered education. Here I got to see it implemented," Ananieva said.

As the week drew to a close, the Ukrainian educators were informed that First City Gymnasium is being sponsored for a Phi Delta Kappa Institutional Membership by the Germany Chapter of PDK.

The group also visited NATO headquarters and toured Brugge and Waterloo. "People ask me if I'm tired from traveling and I say no," said Tkachenko. "I'll have time to be tired when I go back home. There is too much to learn here."

Work those dogs



FILE PHOTO: F. Neil Neeley

The 80th Area Support Group and the local volksmarch Club "Le Roitelet" hold the sixth edition of the "Aviators' March" on May 8, a date that coincides with the 60th anniversary of V-E Day (Victory in Europe) and Mother's Day. The departure of this IVV-sanctioned walk of 20, 15, 10 or 5 kilometers is at the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Signs will direct you to the designated parking areas. All routes go along some of the historical sites of Chièvres and surrounding villages of Bauffe and Ladeuze where signs offer an explanation pertaining to the area. Other activities are planned in partnership with the local cities. The fee is 75 euro cents. Refreshments and food are available and trophies will be awarded. Pre-registration is mandatory for those who do not have a valid installation access pass or U.S. ID card. Preregistration allows access to Chièvres Air Base. To pre-register: Call the 80th ASG Public Affairs Office, DSN 361-5419 or commercial (32)68 27 5419, during duty hours; An on-line registration form in English and French is available at www.80asg.army.mil. Fill in the blanks and click on the "submit" button.

Butov

back to use in my classroom." Educator Mary McGinn, who coordinated the SHAPE schools' tour, said the effort was well worth the planning.

teaching. I always try to take something

"I was proud to show them how I work every day," McGinn said. "Our students were excited to have them and my colleagues, definitely. It was a very profitable day. The global outlook and the global educational aspect of our school are alive and well. I see it as a tremendous strength for all of us."

Olga Potomkina, a beginning English elementary school teacher, said she came on

U.S. Army NATO Soldiers train tough, hands-on

By Heidi Meyer

The ground was white in early March with patches of half-thawed mud starkly dotting the fields as the four-vehicle convoy snaked its way along the road, occupants alert, body armor fastened, Kevlars pulled low, weapons locked and loaded.

"Be alert, check the ditches!" came an assertive voice over the radio and the Soldiers crouched in the back of the vehicle, eyes furtively seeking the enemy, ready to react in a split second.

Suddenly small arms fire erupted out of the tree line, figures were seen ducking in between the undergrowth.

"Push through, push through," screamed the same voice over the radio and the Soldiers hit the biting cold metal on the floor of their vehicles.

"We've taken casualties!" but the vehicles kept moving forward through explosions and sniper fire.

A short way up the road the vehicles stopped, twelve Soldiers jumped out with weapons ready, radios in hand. They were cold, wet and tired but trained to stay alert, so they didn't let their guard down. Pfc. Justin Webster, a military policeman assigned to 80th Area Support Group in Brussels, was among them; he was the most junior in the convoy with only one and a half years service.

"Endex!" shouted a burly NCO who strode up to debrief the Soldiers on the third simulated enemy attack of their convoy – or mounted tactical - operations training.

It was the fourth day of a long, tough week of Individual Deployment Training run by U.S. Army NATO. with support from 80th Area Support Group and 7th Army Training Command, at Chièvres Air Base.

Pfc. Justin Webster, from Waterbury, Vermont, is used to snow and the miserable conditions didn't dampen his enthusiasm

"This is training definitely needed for deployment,"

he said later in a warm classroom as he ate his MRE lunch ration "wherever the Army sends me I will go – but I am ready after this week of training. We did this in Advanced Individual Training (AIT), but not in as much depth as here."

Sgt. Laquiesha Andrews, a Personnel NCO from Naples, Italy, prepared with her team to take the vehicles out on convoy, the Commander barked orders and the team was focused and primed as they loaded up weapons, ammunition and radios.

"I have been with this team for three days but it seems like we have been together for weeks – its great team work" she said as she ran off, black balaclava pulled over her head, weapon in hand as they loaded into the vehicles.

Andrews sat through intense classroom instruction to prepare her for two days of exercises in the field; she was taught how to react to sniper fire, ambushes, treat casualties and send reports to higher headquarters. For her it's important. In August she deploys to Afghanistan for six months to support U.S. personnel assigned to ISAF in Kabul.

"I'm in personnel, this is the first training I have ever done like this – its hands-on, realistic. The convoy (operation) is best – it put everything we learned in the classroom into practice."

With increased operations and missions NATO has been deploying more and more U.S. personnel into war zones in the past few years. To train them, U.S. Army NATO conducts IDT once a month; there are always two applicants for every one slot in the class. Master Sgt. Anthony Harris describes himself as "an old Soldier." He sat with his team waiting to go back out into the snow and conduct another convoy through "enemy territory." Nearby a role player, an Arabic translator fastened his parka over his long white shirt and white skullcap.

"This brought back a lot of stuff," Harris said. He is deploying to Afghanistan in three weeks and throughout his assignment in SHAPE he will be back and forth on a regular basis.

"We aren't fighting World War II anymore," he said, "We are fighting a different sort of enemy." His point was that IDT emphasized hands-on, practical training for events that any Solder, in any role, could encounter in a wholly unpredictable environment like Iraq where explosive devices are hidden in potholes, the enemy merges with the local population and everyone is a potential suicide bomber.

Back outside the team set up a Traffic Control Point on an icy stretch of road. A civilian vehicle approached, the team saw it, weapons aimed and they were primed. The vehicle stopped and two role-players got out with weapons firing; in seconds the team reacted and fired a volley, the assailants fell into the cold mud; luckily there were no Soldier casualties. Now the team knows what to look for when they are deployed and the bullets and enemy are real and deadly.

Maj. John Laskodi, a logistician assigned to Madrid, could be one of the team members who encounter the real thing soon. He prepared for a probable deployment with the NATO Training Mission in Iraq.

"Its great refresher training on perishable skills," he said while cleaning the mud off his weapon. "For anyone deploying this training is a must!"

"We appreciate everything that Col. (Dean) Nowowiejski (Commander, 80th ASG) and his folks are doing to allow us the opportunity to use some of the training area that's on Chièvres Air Base, as well as providing some other types of support that we need to make this happen," said Lt. Col. Michael Dillon, G3, U.S. Army NATO. "It's definitely a plus for us that we have the 80th ASG there to help support this."

Meyer is Deputy G3, U.S. Army NATO.

